

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. New claim 12 has been added. Claims 1-12 are now pending in the application.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kamepalli in view of Chen.

Claim 7 has been amended into independent format to include the limitations of claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that this claim is in condition for favorable action and allowance. Although claim 7 was rejected by the Examiner, no discussion is presented by Examiner as to how Kamepalli and/or Chen teach or suggest the claimed field programmable gate array which is circuit modified in the manner claimed. A review of Kamepalli and Chen fails to reveal any teaching or suggestion for implementing the controllers f0-f7 (individually or separately) using a field programmable gate array whose circuit configuration is modified as needed to support the implemented class of functions provided by the peripheral devices. Kamepalli clearly teaches the use of registers and the setting of register values with respect to the controllers f0-f7, but this circuit configuration and operation has no relevance to the claimed circuit configuration of a field programmable gate array. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 is patentable over the prior art.

Claim 1 has been amended to emphasize that the host device is operable to execute user applications. Responsive to a host executing user application request, the control device of the expansion module functions to control a circuit modification of an included reconfigurable unit in order to support an implementation of a certain class of functions. This operation is contrasted

with the Kamepalli and Chen teachings which focus instead on BIOS-related set-up or configuration operations to enable/disable functions. These operations with respect to enabling or disabling the functions f0-f7 do not occur in the context of, or in response to, a host executing user application request.

Similarly, Claim 11 has been amended to emphasize that the control device of the expansion module functions, responsive to a host executing user application request, to control a circuit modification of an included reconfigurable unit in order to support an implementation of a certain class of functions. There is no teaching or suggestion for such an operation in either Kamepalli or Chen.

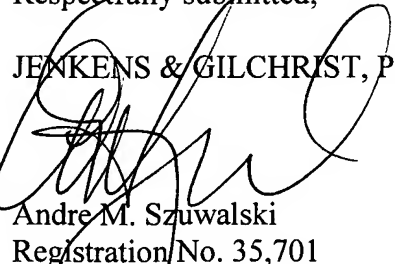
Claims 8 and 12 are believed to be patentable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as claim 7.

Turning now to claim 2, Applicants submit that this claim is patentable over the circuit art for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

In view of the above, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such a Notice is respectfully requested.

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